

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A medical device, comprising:
 - a hollow barrel having an open rearward end;
 - a cartridge containing a quantity of fluid;
 - an inner housing slidably displaceable within the barrel, and having an opening for receiving the cartridge;
 - a needle having a sharpened tip in fluid communication with the cartridge;
 - an axially displaceable plunger operable to expel fluid from the cartridge;
 - a connector for connecting the plunger to the inner housing;
 - a first lock releasably retaining the needle in a projecting position in which the sharpened tip of the needle is exposed for use;
 - a second lock releasably retaining the needle in a retracted position in which the sharpened tip of the needle is shielded against inadvertent contact;
 - a biasing element biasing the needle rearwardly; and
 - an actuator manually operable to release the first lock for rearward retraction of the needle into displacement with the second lock, and manually operable to release the second lock for forward displacement of the needle back into the first lock.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The medical device of claim 1 comprising a guide for impeding rotation of the housing relative to the barrel during retraction.
4. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 1 wherein the first lock comprises ~~a radially deformable latch and~~ a first opening on the inner housing ~~configured to cooperate with the latch,~~ and the second lock comprises ~~the radially deformable latch and~~ a second opening on the inner housing ~~configured to cooperate with the latch~~ and wherein the device comprises a radially deformable

latch configured to cooperate with the first and second openings.

5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The medical device of claim 1 wherein the actuator comprises an axially displaceable sleeve circumscribing the barrel.
7. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1 wherein the displacing the inner housing rearwardly also displaces the plunger rearwardly.
8. (Previously Presented) A method for injecting medication from a medical device having a needle with a sharpened tip and an axially displaceable actuator, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a medical device having a barrel, inner housing displaceable within the barrel, and a needle;
 - inserting a cartridge of medicinal fluid into the inner housing;
 - connecting a plunger to the inner housing;
 - piercing a patient with the needle;
 - injecting fluid into the patient;
 - displacing an actuator to retract the needle so that the sharpened tip is shielded against inadvertent contact;
 - releasably locking the needle in the retracted position;
 - displacing the actuator to re-extend the needle so that the sharpened tip is exposed;
 - piercing the patient a second time with the needle; and
 - retracting the needle a second time so that the sharpened tip is shielded against inadvertent contact.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 comprising the step of providing a biasing element for displacing the needle rearwardly during retraction of the needle.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Original) The method of claim 8 comprising the step of providing a lock for releasably retaining the needle in a projecting position in which the sharpened tip of the needle is exposed for use.
12. (Previously Presented) A medical device for injecting medicinal fluid from a pre-filled container, comprising:
 - a barrel;
 - a needle having a sharpened tip operable between a projecting position in which the sharpened tip projects forwardly from the housing and a shielded position in which the sharpened tip is shielded;
 - a biasing element biasing the needle toward the shielded position;
 - a socket configured to receive the pre-filled container;
 - a needle retainer releasably retaining the needle against the bias of the biasing element;
 - a finger flange extending radially outwardly from the barrel to provide a gripping surface during use of the device;
 - a plunger adapted to expel medicinal fluid from the cartridge during use, wherein the plunger comprises a gripping surface adapted to be grasped in combination with the finger flange to drive the plunger forwardly; and
 - an actuator adapted to cooperate with the needle retainer to release the needle for retraction, wherein the actuator comprises a gripping surface disposed adjacent the finger flange gripping surface and generally parallel to the finger flange gripping surface to facilitate actuation of retraction by one-hand.

13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~13~~ 12 wherein the actuator gripping surface is configured to cooperate with the finger flange, such that the actuator can be actuated by one hand by releasing the plunger and squeezing the finger flange and actuator together.
15. (Original) The device of claim 14 wherein the actuator is a collar disposed around at least a portion of the barrel and the actuator is axially displaceable.
16. (Original) The device of claim 14 comprising a lock for locking the needle in the shielded position.
17. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein the needle retainer comprises a radially deformable arm.
18. (Original) The device of claim 14 wherein the actuator is configured to cooperate with the needle retainer to displace the needle from the shielded position to the exposed position by squeezing the finger flange and the actuator together.
19. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein the device is operable to displace the needle from the shielded position to the exposed position by pushing on the finger flange to displace the finger flange axially forwardly relative to the barrel.
20. (Currently amended) A medical device, comprising:
 - a hollow barrel having an open rearward end;
 - a cartridge containing a quantity of fluid;
 - an inner housing slidably displaceable within the barrel, and having an opening for receiving the cartridge;

a needle having a sharpened tip in fluid communication with the cartridge;
a plunger operable to expel fluid from the cartridge;
a first lock comprising ~~a radially deformable latch cooperating with~~ a first opening in one of either the barrel or the inner housing, to releasably retaining the needle in a projecting position in which the sharpened tip of the needle is exposed for use;
a second lock comprising ~~the latch and~~ a second opening in the one of the barrel or the inner housing, releasably retaining the needle in a retracted position in which the sharpened tip of the needle is shielded against inadvertent contact;
a biasing element biasing the needle rearwardly; and
an actuator manually operable to release the needle from the first lock for rearward retraction of the needle into ~~displacement~~ engagement with the second lock, and manually operable to release the needle from the second lock for forward displacement of the needle back into engagement with the first lock.

21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 20 comprising a connector for connecting the plunger to the inner housing.
22. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 20 comprising a guide for impeding rotation of the housing relative to the barrel during retraction.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 20 wherein the actuator comprises an axially displaceable sleeve circumscribing the barrel.
25. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 20 wherein displacing the

inner housing rearwardly also displaces the plunger rearwardly.

26. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 20 comprising:
a finger flange extending radially outwardly from the barrel to provide a gripping surface during use of the device;
wherein the plunger comprises a gripping surface adapted to be grasped in combination with the finger flange to drive the plunger forwardly; and
wherein the actuator comprises a gripping surface disposed adjacent the finger flange gripping surface and generally parallel to the finger flange gripping surface to facilitate actuation of retraction by one-hand.
27. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the actuator is disposed adjacent a rearward end of the barrel
28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 comprising a needle hub fixedly connected with the needle, wherein the needle hub comprises a first connector, and the inner housing comprises a second connector cooperable with the first connector to attach the needle hub to the inner housing.
29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the cartridge comprises a seal and the plunger is operable to displace the seal within the cartridge.
30. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the biasing element biases the inner housing rearwardly.
31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the plunger comprises a sleeve operable to drive the cartridge into engagement with the needle.

32. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the actuator is axially operable to actuate retraction.
33. (New) The device of claim 20 comprising a radially displaceable latch cooperable with the first lock and the second lock, wherein the latch is cooperable with the first lock to retain the needle in the extended position and the latch is cooperable with the second lock to retain the needle in the retracted position.